

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ORM-02

DHA-02 SAJ-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 AGR-05 /068 W

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R 031126Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7686

INFO AMCONSUL UDORN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, CB

SUBJECT: CONDITIONS IN CAMBODIA: REFUGEE COMMENTS

REF: BANGKOK 1785

1. IN SCREENING OF ARANYAPRATHET KHMER REFUGEE CAMP OFFICERS FROM THE EMBASSY REFUGEE SECTION HAVE IN THE PAST WEEK TALKED TO SEVERAL RECENT ARRIVALS FROM CAMBODIA. FOLLOWING IS THE ACCOUNT OF CAMBODIAN REFUGEE WHO ARRIVED IN ARANYAPRATHET ON JANUARY 27 AND WAS INTERVIEWED ON FEBRUARY 2.

2. SUBJECT IS AN 18 YEAR OLD MALE FROM CAUKKNONG VILLAGE IN BATTAMBANG PROVINCE ABOUT HALF WAY BETWEEN BATTAMBANG AND SISOPHON. ON THE EVENING OF JANUARY 15, THE YOUNG PEOPLE FROM CAUKKNONG WHO WERE LIVING IN THEIR OWN DESIGNATED COMPOUND INVITED THEIR TWO KHMER ROUGE GUARDS TO EAT SOME CHICKEN WITH THEM. WHEN THE GUARDS APPROACHED, THE YOUNG PEOPLE SET UPON THEM WITH PIECES OF SHARPENED BAMBOO AND KILLED THEM. ABOUT 270 OF THE APPROXIMATELY 280 YOUNG PEOPLE THEM FLED ON FOOT TOWARDS THAILAND. ON ABOUT THE ELEVENTH NIGHT OF THEIR TREK, THE GROUP WAS AMBUSHED WHILE TRYING TO CROSS THE "LVEA RIVER" (PERHAPS THE MONGOL

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BOREY RIVER) IN THE VICINITY OF CHOMNOM VILLAGE NEAR

THE THAI BORDER. THE KHMER ROUGE OPENED FIRE KILLING ONE INSTANTLY AND THE GROUP DISPERSED. SUBJECT MADE IT INTO THAILAND THE FOLLOWING DAY WITH 55 OF HIS COMPATRIATES. SHORTLY THEREAFTER, ANOTHER GROUP OF 12 ARRIVED IN ARANYAPRATHET MAKING A TOTAL OF 67 KNOWN TO HAVE ARRIVED IN THAILAND. THE OTHER 203 REMAIN UNACCOUNTED FOR AND MAY HAVE BEEN THE GRIST FOR THE AP STORY OF JANUARY 26 ABOUT 200 REFUGEES BEING KILLED AS THEY TRIED TO ESCAPE FROM CAMBODIA (AP STORY DESCRIBED REFTTEL.

3. SUBJECT SAID THAT THE GROUP OF 270 HAD MANAGED TO STORE ONLY 5 KILOGRAMS OF RICE FOR EVERYBODY WANTING TO ESCAPE. THE GROUP WALKED ONLY AT NIGHT AND OTHER THAN THE AMBUSH DID NOT HAVE ANY CONTACT WITH THE KHMER ROUGE.

4. SUBJECT DESCRIBED THE ROUTING IN HIS VILLAGE AS CONSISTING OF A 12 AND A HALF HOUR DAY IN THE RICE FIELDS: FROM 5:00 A.M. TO 11:00 A.M., WITH A HALF HOUR LUNCH BREAK AND THEN RESUMPTION OF WORK FROM 11:30 A.M. TO 6:00 P.M. THE YOUNG PEOPLE LIVED IN A SEPARATE AREA FROM THE OTHER OLDER VILLAGER ABOUT A KILOMETER AWAY. THE KHMER ROUGE INSTITUTED THIS SEPARATION IN SEPTEMBER. THE OLDER PEOPLE DO RICE THRESHING MOSTLY THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT. SUBJECT HAS NOT SEEN HIS PARENTS SINCE THE SEPARATION IN SEPTEMBER. THE VILLAGE OF OVER 300 FAMILIES IS GUARDED BY TWO OR THREE KHMER ROUGE GUARDS. SUBJECT HAD NOT WITNESSED ANY ATROCITIES BUT SAID THERE HAD BEEN A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF ARRESTS IN HIS VILLAGE. THOSE ARRESTED SIMPLY DISAPPEAR.

5. DAILY INDIVIDUAL RATION IN VILLAGE CONSISTS OF A SMALL CAN OF RICE. HARVEST HAS BEEN GOOD BUT BULK OF RICE IS BEING STORED IN ANOTHER VILLAGE UNDER KHMER ROUGE GUARD. WHITEHOUSE

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